

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION OF Robert R. Schaefer, P.E.
DEPARTMENT Superintendent of Sanitary Services

DATE February 7, 1984

Re: 524 W. Sunshine

At 8:30 A.M. on Monday, January 30, 1984, Sewer Operations received a call from Mr. George Koch of the Shady Inn Restaurant, 524 W. Sunshine. Mr. Koch indicated that sewage from Auto Magic Car Wash, 630 W. Sunshine, was backing up into his basement. Joyce Sifers dispatched the truck-mounted rodding crew to respond to the call and also informed Steve Short and Randy Lyman of the situation.

Short and Lyman arrived at 524 W. Sunshine at 8:50 A.M. and talked with Mr. Koch. Mr. Koch indicated that the water backing up in his basement was muddy and soapy and that it was from Auto Magic Car Wash and that the City should "close them down". Lyman informed Mr. Koch that he did not have the authority nor was it City policy to do so under normal sewer stoppage occurrences. Mr. Koch said he would go tell Auto Magic to close down but that he did not think they would do so. Lyman and Short had determined that an apparent stoppage was present between M.H.'s #28 and 27 on Wye-Map U-9. Surcharging was occurring in M.H.'s #28 and 29. Lyman and Short then had a conversation with an employee of Sater Sewer Service, working at 524 W. Sunshine, and witnessed the backup in the basement. Most of the inventory appeared to be on wooden pallets and above the water level at the time of inspection. Pumps were in operation and discharging back into the City sewer. The Sater employee indicated that the Shady Inn had called them on Saturday, January 28, 1984. The Sater employee indicated that an apparent stoppage in the Shady Inn building sewer was encountered and was alleviated by rodding through the building sewer into the City sewer on Saturday.

Lyman and Short then talked with Butch Barclay at Auto Magic. Mr. Barclay said that Mr. Koch had visited with him and wanted Auto Magic to close down. He indicated that he would not close down as they were very busy. Long lines of autos were observed waiting to be washed. Mr. Barclay said they had been extremely busy and that their settling pit was in need of cleaning and would be cleaned that night. At 9:15 A.M. the City rodding crew arrived and set up in M.H. #28. Lyman and Short observed M.H. #27 to determine the cause of the stoppage. When the City rodding machine ambulated almost to the end of the 82.5 feet distance between M.H.'s 28 and 27, a solid obstruction was encountered. At this moment, apparently, the obstruction was dislodged and a deluge of muddy, soapy water entered M.H. 27 via the overflow of the "drop" manhole. At 9:30 A.M. the surcharging in M.H.'s 28 and 29 ceased.

At 9:40 A.M. Mr. Koch arrived back at 524 W. Sunshine and was informed that the stoppage had been alleviated. Mr. Koch asked what the cause of the stoppage was. Lyman asked Mr. Koch to accompany him to M.H. #28 and observe any material on the rodding tool upon retrieval from the sewer. Mr. Koch did accompany. Retrieval of the tool revealed an entanglement of heavy paper towels and plastic "bar straws". Mr. Koch observed this and made the comment, "I don't know about the paper, but the straws could be ours." He was informed that the paper and straws was apparently responsible for the blockage in the City sewer. Mr. Koch said that the City should have closed Auto Magic and ceased their discharge. Lyman indicated again that it was not City policy to do so under these circumstances. Mr. Koch was informed that if he had a claim for any damages to contact the City Law Department. Mr. Koch

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said that the City had maintained the sewer line serving his building on a frequent basis in the past, but he had not seen them there in a long time. He also said that he did not think the sewer line was large enough to handle the amount of water that Auto Magic discharges. Lyman told Mr. Koch that he would inform the Sewer Maintenance Supervisor and ask that accelerated routine maintenance be implemented.

Lyman and Short subsequently inspected M.H.'s #38, 39, 47, 48, 49, 50 and 51. No evidence of heavy paper or straws could be observed. All commercial establishments tributary to the City sewer upstream from Shady Inn's connection were inspected. Inspection of plumbing, waste drains, grease traps, and observance of materials used in serving of food, revealed no further evidence concerning the cause of the aforementioned stoppage encountered on January 30, 1984.

ccs: David G. Snider
Wayne Latimer
Law Department
FILE

SIGNED JRL, W.P.C.I. III

SDS, W.P.C.I. II

J. Randall Lyman
Stephen D. Short